
DUANESBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 1

February 2018

Directors' Message

The Board of Directors is very pleased to announce that we will be moving in to the new Archive and Research Center this spring with an Open House planned for Monday, August 20, 2018 from 4-8 pm. This project would not have been possible without the financial support of our members and the community. It is a very proud fact that the residents of the Town of Duaneburg have made this plan, that goes back to the beginning of the Historical Society in 1944, a reality. Finally, the Duaneburg Historical Society can preserve, store and make accessible the important stories of our town, its people, its schools, churches, businesses and civic organizations. With this building we will be assured that these histories will stay within our town.

In planning this project, the board has always preserved a reserve fund to assure the long-term maintenance of the building and grounds. Additional donations received will help contribute to that fund – a fund that is essential to our longevity.

Thank you to all that have contributed to the building of the Archive and Research Center and we welcome everyone to be a part of this project.

Len Van Buren, President; Shirley Martin, Vice-President; Howard Ohlhaus, Treasurer; Directors: Marsha Brown, Cindy McKeone, Eamon Murphy, David Vincent, Pat Van Buren and Carl Wiedemann

DHS on the Internet

Those with Internet access can visit us at www.duanesburghistorical.com and join us on Facebook. Search under Duaneburg Historical.

2018 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Programs are held at the Bishop Scully Hall -Our Lady of Fatima Church- Delanson at 7:00 PM the 3rd Monday of the month. No meetings are held in January or February.

March 19	Schoharie: The Dash Between Rick Colyer
April 16	The Palatine Migration Part II Don Martin
May 21	WWII Family Diaries Lois Gruner
June 18	A Century of Family Businesses in the Town of Duaneburg Steve Schrade
July 16	Annual Picnic 5:30 – 7:00 Shafer Park
August 20	Open House – DHS Archive & Research Center – Quaker Street 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.
September 17	Grove Cemetery - Delanson Len Van Buren & Bruce Barton
October 15	A Duaneburg Boyhood in the 1940's Carol DeForest
November 19	My Grandfather: Raymond Daniel Suits Robert Stark
December 17	Music & Memories An Accordion Band & Sharing Early Xmas Memories plus Finger Food & Goodies

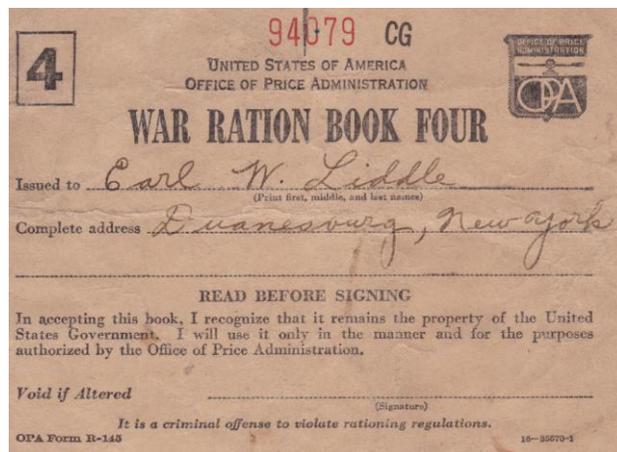
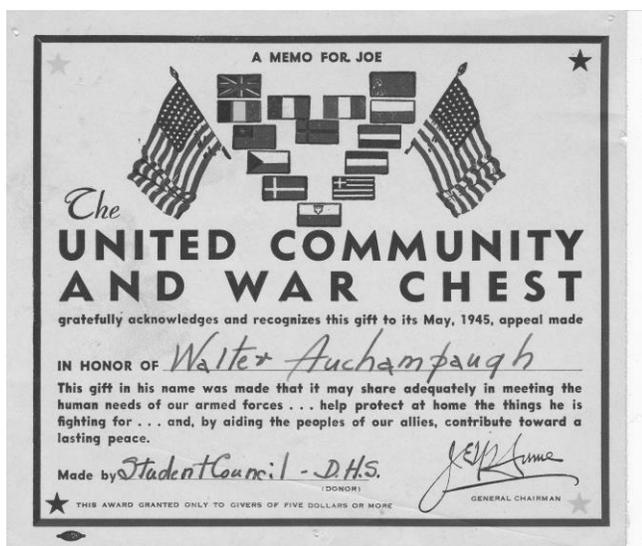
From the Archives

by Pat Van Buren

WWII-The Homefront

- In 1943 a rationing center was established in the Delanson Union Free School with Robert B. Shafer, principal appointed director. The center could accept applications for rationing books but could not issue the books. Approval came from the war and rationing office in Schenectady.
- In February 1945 the Board of Education of the Delanson Union Free School voted to close school indefinitely because of the coal shortage. Although there was a carload of coal on the rail siding for the school, Harry Briggs had been ordered by the government to divert this coal to “domestic users”.
- Robert Shafer, school principal, announced that 8th, 11th and 12th grades would be taught Regents subjects in private homes and in rooms in the village hall.
- Buses were to be operated to bring the students to classes and the necessary teachers would be available although attendance (by students) was voluntary.
- Kindergarten would also be held in a private home.
- In 1945 thirty-two Delanson High School students received certificates for the completion of a basic course instruction for air raid wardens.

In May 1946 a well-attended “welcome home” dinner for veterans was given by the Town of Duaneburg at the Delanson High School.



Rationing for the War Effort

Ask anyone who remembers life on the Home Front during World War II and chances are they will tell you about rationing. The war caused shortages of all sorts of things: rubber, metal, clothing, etc. But it was the shortages of various types of food that affected just about everyone on a daily basis.

Food was in short supply for a variety of reasons: most of the processed and canned foods was reserved for shipping overseas to our military and our Allies; transportation of fresh foods was limited due to gasoline and tire rationing, and the priority of transporting soldiers and war supplies instead of food. Imported foods, like coffee and sugar, were limited due to restrictions on importing.

Because of these shortages, the government Office of Price Administration established a system of rationing in 1942 that would more fairly distribute foods that were in short supply. Every American was issued a series of ration books during the war. The ration books contained removable stamps good for certain rationed items, like sugar, meat, cooking oil, and canned goods. A person could not buy a rationed item without also giving the grocer the right ration stamp.

Once a person's ration stamps were used up for a month, she (or he) couldn't buy any more of that type of food. This meant planning meals carefully, being creative with menus, and not wasting food. More than 8,000 ration boards across the country administered the program.



Duanesburg Historical Society Research & Archive Center

Membership Application

Choose the membership that is right for you and enjoy the benefits of supporting your Historical Society. If you are not a current member we hope you will consider joining.

Annual Dues: \$10.00 Adults \$1.00 Students

From July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

Lifetime Membership - \$150.00

Name(s) _____

Telephone # _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Email
Address _____

(optional – not shared)

Make Checks payable to: Duanesburg Historical Society
PO Box 421
Duanesburg, NY 12056

DHS Dues

As of July 1, 2018, our dues will be raised from \$5.00 a year to \$10.00 a year. Student membership will remain at \$1.00. The membership year runs from July 1st until June 30th the following year. We also offer a lifetime membership for \$150.00.

Membership in the Duanesburg Historical Society is a great investment. It gives you access to nine high interest meetings, a picnic in July, two newsletters a year, and now an Archive and Research Center for your use.

Thank you for your continued support by your active involvement in the Historical Society.

Personal Recollections of School Are Shared

by Becky Watrous

Our sincere thanks to Emily (Christman) Wood, Norma (Fountain) Haner, Beatrice (Yauchler) Estelle and Lillian (Yauchler) Barnett for recently sharing their memories of attending Duaneburg town schools on the DHS school survey. Their descriptions of their school experiences help us better understand what it was like to attend town schools in the past. Thanks also to Carol (Yauchler) Hallenbeck and Anne Christman for helping us distribute the surveys. Completed surveys will be added to the DHS Archives and open to all researchers.

If you attended Duaneburg Town Schools between the early 1930s and the early 1960s, and would like to complete a survey, please contact Becky Watrous at rjw601@gmail.com. We'd love to have your recollections!

Remembering the Town of Duaneburg - Volume 4

The Duaneburg Historical Society is in the midst of planning their newest book *Remembering the Town of Duaneburg, Volume 4*. Our intent is to continue the ongoing recording of the history of Duaneburg (and our neighboring areas, e.g. Burtonsville, Scotch Church, the Bozenkill et al) by collecting stories celebrating the people, places and events throughout the years within our community. It will contain both personal memories and historical essays. These pieces may range from recalling the activities of your childhood, a history of your home, family or business within our community, to recollections of memorable people or events.

We look forward to you being a part of this project. Please share this information with friends, relatives or neighbors who you know have a story to tell.



Lake School Mariaville



Old Delanson High School



One Room School House and Class

Duanesburg Historical Society

Po Box 421 Duanesburg, NY 12056

Research and Archive Center

Looking to the Future to Preserve Our Past

The Duanesburg Historical Society was formed in 1944 for the purpose of discovery, preservation, and dissemination of our local history. We possess historically valuable records that include information on the development of the town, its institutions and its families. Family photographs, genealogies, correspondence, personal interviews, anecdotal accounts of life in the town and memorabilia and records from local businesses and community organizations are all an important part of documenting our heritage specific to the Town of Duanesburg.

The Duanesburg Historical Research and Archive Center will provide the space for the preservation and access to our ever-growing collection. Please consider giving your financial support to this important project so that the evidence of our heritage will remain here in the town for the future.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is my Tax-deductible contribution of _____

Signature _____

This is a 501(C)(3) Tax deductible donation under Internal Revenue Codes
Donations are eligible for GE Matching Gifts

Please make checks payable to:
Duanesburg Historical Society – Building Fund
duanesburghistorical.com

